

SECRET

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Thursday - 20 May 1954

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1. Mr. Ben Brown, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, informed me that Messrs. Walsh and McTigue, of the staff of the Kersten Committee were causing considerable trouble abroad. They were evidently attempting, through use of AP, UP, and press pressure, to try and force the West German Government to grant them the right to hold open hearings. Rather than to live up to the agreement to hold their hearings in Germany in executive session. Based on the technicality, they are also pressuring the High Commissioner's office to seek authority for open hearings in Berlin on the basis that it is not West Germany. Brown has discussed this with Kersten and hopes to get it on the track. In view of the fact that State is holding its present relations with Kersten in legislative channels, it is recommended that we continue to do likewise, but that when I discuss matters with Kersten I be backstopped by someone from DD/P, presumably [redacted]. It is also recommended that one person be designated as the focal point for staff requests in Europe who will be strong enough to withstand the Kersten staff pressure.

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